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SUBJECT: JAPANESE UNIONS REITERATE SUPPORT FOR U.S.
EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT

REF: TOKYO 1217

¶1. Japan Trade Union Confederation (Rengo) President Tsuyoshi Takagi sent the following letter to the CDA in support of the Employee Free Choice Act. Takagi's letter follows a visit by Tomoyasu Kato, President of the All NTT Workers Union of Japan and an executive member of the Union Network International (ref).

¶2. Begin letter text:

Dear Mr. Zumwalt,

Employee Free Choice Act

We strongly support passage of the Employee Free Choice Act, which would bring US labour laws much closer to conformity with international labour standards. It is time for the United States to join the other democracies around the world that respect the fundamental rights of workers to form trade unions and bargain collectively with their employers. Those rights form essential elements of free and democratic societies.

Union busting practices, routine in the United States, would be impossible in most other countries. We urge the US government to act urgently to create a climate in which fear and intimidation generated by massive violations of workers' rights, including repeated trampling of labour laws already on the books, can be replaced by reason and sound industrial relations practices.

Labour law improvements in the United States are desperately needed. We ask for no more than basic democracy and simple justice.

We ask you to transmit our message to Secretary of State Clinton and President Obama.

Thank you for your consideration and action.

Sincerely yours,

Tsuyoshi Takagi
President

End letter text.

ZUMWALT